IP bundling and antitrust

Joseph Farrell DOJ/FTC, May 2002

Alternatives to Buying

- Go without
 - Substitutes
 - Generic Econ 1 alternative
- Challenge
 - Specific to IP?
 - Or like entry effects generically?
 - More on this later today
- How does bundling/tying affect these alternatives?

Attaching IP (to IP, other goods)

- May affect private incentives to challenge
- Right incentives?
 - Consumer value ex post
 - Total surplus ex post
 - IP incentives of profits

Attaching IP to IP

- Private incentive to challenge single patent bundled with another patent
 - Timing of negotiations
- Is there more incentive if not bundled?
 - Can depend on timing
- What's the right incentive?

Attaching IP to Structure

- IP, network effect, perhaps in different goods
 - Early telephone networks
 - Star pagination?
- Is this a problem?
 - Structure amplifies reward to IP
 - In principle can be good or bad
 - Presumption: big amplification is bad?
 - V and V+N